

REPORT

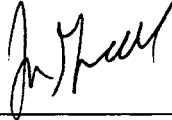
DATE: December 1, 2005

TO: Energy and Environment Committee (EEC)

FROM: Jessica Kirchner, Associate Regional Planner, 213-236-1983, kirchner@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Conformity Determination and PEIR Addendum for the Draft Amendment to the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and 2004 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:



RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Release for public review and comment the conformity determination and Program EIR (PEIR) Addendum for the Draft 2004 RTP/RTIP Amendment. (Note: TCC is considering release of the Draft Amendment.)

SUMMARY:

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) has requested that SCAG amend the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and 2004 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) to accomplish the following:

- Replace the planned CenterLine light rail project (which is a Transportation Control Measure or TCM) with a combination of bus rapid transit, commuter rail, local shuttle, and carpool operational improvement projects
- Delete the proposed Yorba Linda Metrolink station (also a TCM) and designate the Fullerton Metrolink Station parking expansion project as a replacement TCM
- Revise the scope of the Foothill Transportation Corridor-South (SR-241) toll road project

The CenterLine and Yorba Linda amendments are requested to fulfill the TCM substitution process. Additionally, the CenterLine action is requested so that OCTA can redirect funds currently programmed for the CenterLine towards the replacement projects before such funds are lost due to the state's timely use provisions (AB1012 and annual obligation authority provisions). The Foothill-South amendment is requested to facilitate action on the project's environmental document by the Federal Highway Administration.

Amending the 2004 RTP and 2004 RTIP requires modeling the proposed project changes, conducting a conformity determination (including emissions analysis, financial constraint, and interagency consultation), preparing an addendum to the RTP Program EIR, circulating the amendment for public review and comment, and responding to comments before final adoption by the Regional Council.

SCAG has determined that the 2004 RTP and 2004 RTIP Amendments are consistent with federal and state transportation conformity requirements. SCAG has also determined that the use of an Addendum to the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan Program Environmental Impact Report is appropriate. Incorporation of the proposed project changes into the RTP will not result in either new environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects.

REPORT

Staff anticipates returning to the EEC and Regional Council in February 2006 for final conformity determination and approval of the PEIR Addendum on the 2004 RTP and 2004 RTIP Amendments.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funds for RTP and RTIP development are included in the FY 05/06 Overall Work Program.